



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

▶ Webb Browsing

Play of point guard decides Aggs' future

Hearing Dan Patrick call highlights on ESPN's "SportsCenter" is one of my few guilty pleasures in life. His warm personality and subtle humor make 10 p.m. Central Standard Time on Channel 32 a holy period in the hearts of all sports fans.



JEFF WEBB

Imagine the pleasant surprise of Aggie hoops fans when highlights from the Texas A&M University-University of Texas men's basketball game appeared last Wednesday night.

What followed in the shortened highlights was to basketball purists the equivalent of the *Hindenburg*.

UT point guard Ivan Wagner posted a Big 12 Conference record 10 steals, eclipsing Aggie Michael Schmidt's record of eight in a game set last season.

The primary culprit? A&M point guard Clifton Cook, who experienced more turnovers than Menu.

Turnovers are to point guards as parking tickets are to college students. They are going to happen and will cost the team, so teams try to keep them to a minimum.

Cook, who received Big 12 Conference Rookie of the Week honors Monday, has been the barometer of success for a team floundering at the bottom of its conference. And it's not only his turnovers that have affected the team negatively — his poor shooting performance and shot selection have been as much at fault.

Against Texas, Cook was responsible for 11 of the team's 30 turnovers, posting only three assists and shooting a

doughnut out of six tries from beyond the arc (in an overall 6-16 performance). Sometimes the numbers can lie about performance, but Cook must play better for the team to win.

In perhaps his best performance of the season in conference play, the Aggies recently stormed a shorthanded Texas Tech University team 68-47. Cook only scored five points on 2-11 shooting, but he limited his turnovers to two and accounted for eight assists and six steals.

Cook is a Melvin Watkins player, a junior transfer who was placed in before the season to lead the new system.

Watkins brought an end to the Barone era of Aggie basketball when the new coach and coach Tony Barone's son Brian did not come to an agreement about playing basketball at A&M, leading to the younger Barone's transfer to Marquette.

The only remnants of coach Barone's tenure here at A&M is his assignment to other Big 12 games, where he provides color commentary for Phillips 66 Big 12 basketball television broadcasts.

It appeared Watkins wanted to live or die with Cook as his point guard, but with the recent injury to guard T.J. Brown, he will have to regardless of his plans.

If Cook gets motivated and gets the basketball under control, playing with the ability he has shown he has in Division I college basketball, the Aggies, 10-10 overall and 3-7 in Big 12 play, could make a run and possibly receive an NIT bid at season's end. That's a far cry from the lone conference win of a year ago.

Yeah. That's my "SportsCenter" highlight.

Jeff Webb is a senior journalism major.

The Texas A&M University Softball Team will open the 1999 season Tuesday when they face the University of Texas-Arlington Mavericks.

Aggie softball to face UTA in season opener

By BEN WESTBROOK
The Battalion

Texas A&M softball action will kick up Tuesday at the Allan Saxe field in Arlington as the Aggies open their season against the University of Texas-Arlington Mavericks in a double-header.

Sophomore Amy Vining, the Aggs' returning starter, is expected to be the Aggies' opening day pitcher. Vining posted a 1.97 earned run average last year on the way to an 11-6 record. A&M's top offensive threat, Tiffany Esters, will start in center field. Esters coming off a freshman season that saw her crank a team-high .293 batting average and five home runs. Juniormie Smith will continue her streak starting at short stop in every game her college career.

Seven newcomers will step onto the field as Aggies for the first time Tuesday, including 1998 Gatorade Circle of Champions Texas Softball Player of the Year Lisa Klam. Klam, a three time all-state first team selection, will handle the mound for the Aggies.

The starting pitcher for the second game has not been decided but will likely be sophomore Jordana Barrack or junior Danielle Lemuth, coach Jo Evans said.

"We'll have to watch and see what type of hitters they have before we decide," she said.

The UTA Mavericks are 0-2 on the season after dropping a doubleheader Sunday to No. 7 University of Texas. UTA returns six starters from last year's 16-29 team.

A&M returns eleven letter winners and seven starters from a 35-25-2 squad that finished No. 7 in the Big 12 last year.

Evans said the team is ready to face competition following a strong preseason.

"Our players worked very hard during the preseason and accomplished more than any other team I have had," she said. "We are definitely ready to play someone else."

Evans points to team speed, depth and chemistry as the team's three strong points, but said those strengths have yet to be tested against opponents.

The Aggies are hoping their recent hot streak in season openers continues. The women are undefeated over the past four years in opening games and boast a 15-3 opening-day record since 1981.

The Aggies also have displayed a dominance over UTA. A&M has walked away with nine straight wins against the UTA Mavericks and hold a 63-14 all-time advantage versus UTA.



EVANS

The Ladies of Delta Delta Delta would like to congratulate all the Fraternities on a great Rush!

Valentine's Poetry for dummies

A workshop by Paul Christensen on writing contemporary love poetry

Tuesday, Feb. 9
7-9 p.m.
MSC 225
Free to public
Open to all

Get the poetry basics in time for Valentine's Day!



Presented by MSC Literary Arts

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable to assist you to the best of our abilities.

MSC SCONA presents Ethical Issues

A Look into the Future

Texas A&M University February 18-20, 1999

Now Accepting Delegate Registration

Delegate Registration Fee is only \$25

Registration includes all conference materials and meals

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Roundtables | Speaker |
| Media Ethics | Mr. Robert Siegel-National Public Radio |
| Medical Ethics | Dr. Nancy Dickey-President of American Medical Association |
| Political Ethics | Mr. Neil Weiner-Independent Writer and Researcher |
| Military Ethics | Dr. Lewis Sorley-Executive Director, Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States |
| Business Ethics | Mr. Brent Longnecker-National Partner, Deloitte & Touche, LLP |
| Legal Ethics | The Honorable Greg Abbott-Texas Supreme Court Justice |
| Engineering Ethics | Mr. Roger Boisjoly-Professional Engineer-opposed Challenger launch |
| Education Ethics | Dr. Jane Conoley-Dean, Texas A&M University College of Education |
| Environmental Ethics | Dr. Eugene C. Hargrove-Chair, Department of Philosophy & Religion Studies, University of North Texas |

If you are interested in attending, please call 845-7625 or print out a registration form online at <http://scona.tamu.edu>

Fraternities & Sorority Fund Raisers!

1. Bake Sales
2. Car Washes
3. Donate Plasma

Donating Plasma, you sit back in a lounge chair & read, study, talk or dream in a place filled with friends. In 60 minutes you're up & away, cash in hand. *Come...it's that easy.*

Westgate Biologicals DCI Biologicals
700 University Dr. 4223 Wellborn Rd.
268-6050 846-846-8855

Earn \$45 in the 1st week



Agenda

Angel Nails

Professional Nail Care for Women & Men

- Buy 10 Fills get \$15 off Service Fee
- Guarantee our work • Friendly Service
- FREE Quick Dry Topcoat Profinish & Cut Down

We Carry OPI Products & Nail Polish

Refills \$13.00 w/coupon Full Set \$25.00 w/coupon

Located in the College Station Kroger Shopping Center (near Old Country Buffet & MJ Design)
2406 Texas Ave. • Suite D • College Station • 764-9582
Monday-Wednesday 9:30-8:00pm • Thursday-Saturday 9:00-8:00pm
Appointments & Walk-Ins welcome. Expires 5-31-98

JOHN J. KOLDUS III FACULTY/STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes an outstanding faculty/staff member for his or her interest in student growth, education and unity through student organization work. Any student, student organization, faculty, or staff member may nominate. For more information or an application, contact Jane Bailey, MSC Director's Office, 845-1914.

Nominations due Monday, February 15th, 1999, 5 p.m. at MS 1237 or delivered to Jane Bailey #223 MSC.

"ALL-U WALK" TO REED ARENA

FOLLOW THE BAND, CORPS, & YELL LEADERS!

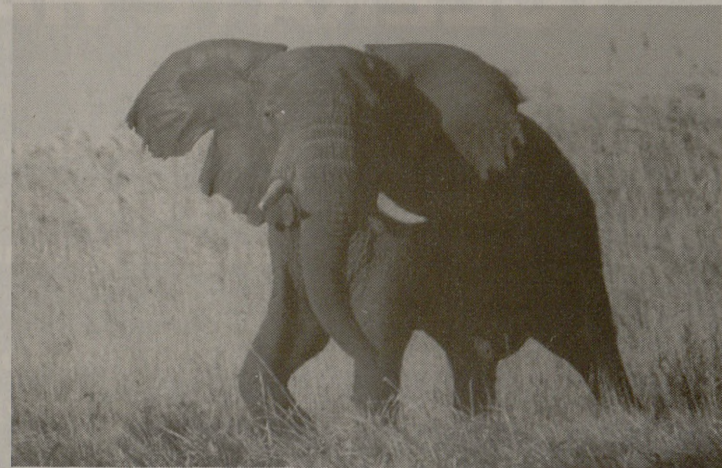
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10
TEXAS A&M VS. KANSAS ST.
7:00 PM

- *Meet at Rudder Fountain at 5:45 pm.
- *Come help us honor the Big 12 Football Championship Team at half-time.
- *Big 12 Championship & Sugar Bowl Trophies will be displayed in the lobby.

SEE YOU AT...



CLASS OF 1999



Remember me??

Elephant Walk and Class of 1999 merchandise is on sale in the MSC

10 am - 3 pm
Monday, 2/8 - Friday, 2/19